CLAIMS:

1. A method of operating a plurality of printers, comprising:

retaining geographical data for each of the plurality of printers; and

retaining relational data relating to the geographical data of the plurality of printers, the relational data being useful in determining an effective distance between a printer and a predetermined location.

2. The method of claim 1, the relational data being retained in a server, the server being accessible to a computer originating a job to be printed.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising

determining that a first printer of the plurality of printers is unsuitable for a purpose; and

using the relational data to find a second printer of a predetermined geographical relationship to the first printer.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising

determining an effective distance of at least one printer to a predetermined location, using the geographical data and the relational data.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising

determining an effective distance of at least two printers to a predetermined location, using the geographical data and the relational data; and

displaying information about at least one printer of the at least two printers.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising

displaying an indication that one printer of the at least two printers has a smaller effective distance to the predetermined location than another of the at least two printers.

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising

displaying a map showing a location of the at least one printer.

8. The method of claim 1, the relational data relating to a grid system.

9. The method of claim 1, the relational data taking into account distances between buildings in which printers of the plurality of printers reside.

10. The method of claim 1, the relational data taking into account different floors within a building in which printers of the plurality of printers reside.

11. The method of claim 1, the relational data taking into account capability data of a printer to determine whether the printer is near a predetermined location.

12. The method of claim 1, the relational data taking into account a requirement of a desired print job to determine whether the printer is near a predetermined location.

13. The method of claim 1, the geographical data for each printer including data about public accessibility of the printer.

14. The method of claim 1, the geographical data for each printer including data about security properties of the printer.

15. The method of claim 1, the geographical data for each printer including data about a building in which the printer is located.

16. The method of claim 1, the geographical data for each printer including data about a location within a building in which the printer is located.

17. The method of claim 1, the geographical data for each printer including GPS-useable information describing a location of the printer.

18. The method of claim 1, the geographical data for each printer including grid coordinates.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising

retaining capability data for each of the plurality of printers.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising

determining whether a printer in the plurality of printers is suitable for a purpose, referring to the capability data of a printer in the plurality of printers.

21. The method of claim 19, the capability data for each printer including data about whether the printer can print in color.

22. The method of claim 19, the capability data for each printer including data about whether the printer can perform a desired finishing operation.

23. The method of claim 19, the capability data for each printer including data about whether the printer can output special characters.